

New US Patent Application filed September 29, 2006  
Preliminary Amendment

Amendment to the Abstract

Please insert the following new abstract immediately following the listing of claims:

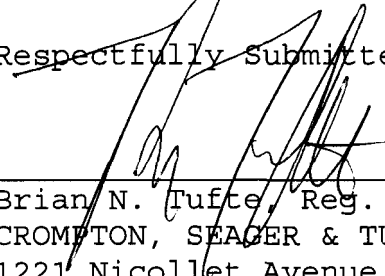
Abstract

A fail-safe circuit and fail-safe methods for controlling gas valves are provided. In one illustrative embodiment, a fail-safe circuit includes at least one input that can be connected to a control device and at least one output that can be connected to a gas valve. In some cases, the fail-safe circuit may only supply an output voltage for opening the gas valve if the input signal received from the control device includes at least two different successively applied frequency signals. Other methods and embodiments are also contemplated.

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